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THE ENLARGED PROGRAM

OF THE COUNCIL OF CHURCH BOARDS OF EDUCATION.

It was a matter of general remark that the January, 1919, meeting of the Council of Church Boards of Education was by far the best in its history—measured both by its accomplishments and by the program outlined for the future.

The reports, which will appear in booklet form at an early date, showed gratifying progress in every phase of the Council's work. This progress was indicated not only in the annual reports given by the executive and survey secretaries, but in those given by the several secretaries representing the constituent Boards of Education. Taken together they constitute probably the most comprehensive statement of actual accomplishment in the various fields of Christian education ever brought together at one time and place. The past year was a momentous one in the history of Christian education in America, as well as in the history of the world and the gains, in spite of war and pestilence, were far greater than the losses. The Council took hold of its business at the annual meeting with a confidence and a courage which gives promise of added success in the future. Large problems presented themselves and challenged to great programs. Some of the Council's forward steps are listed here.

THE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN AMONG SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND OTHER WAR WORKERS.

It is generally recognized that the most important work growing immediately out of the war in which our people are now engaged is that of assisting our war workers to make their transfer from military to civil life. The impending labor conditions are a factor in this work, the expectancy of our boys is another factor and the need for trained

men to comprehend and solve new and large problems is a third. The colleges find here an opportunity and a responsibility commensurate with their highest aspirations. The Council instructed its Executive Secretary to promote this campaign and later in the week the Association of American Colleges added its approval. Already the hearty co-operation has been assured of the Y. M. C. A. and the United States Employment Service, and hundreds of thousands of pages of literature on the American College are being sent from headquarters, 19 South La Salle Street, Chicago, to carefully chosen workers throughout the country, in the demobilization camps and other local centers.

VOCATIONAL WORK.

This work of assisting the government in the placing of soldiers and sailors at profitable and worthy posts in civil life is but a phase of a larger problem in which the constituent Boards of the Council have been engaged by the use of different methods; **the problem of vocational guidance.** At the annual meeting several phases of this work were reported by Mr. Micou, Dr. Ream, Dr. Sheldon and Mr. Crothers, representing respectively certain methods now in operation in the Protestant Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, Congregational and Presbyterian communions. It was decided that this work should be developed as rapidly and extensively as possible and in so far as practicable the various plans should be adapted and conducted from the central office. To attain this result the following resolution was adopted:

That Dr. Kelly be requested, in co-operation with the several secretaries to co-ordinate the various agencies engaged in vocational work with a view to increased efficiency and an extension of the work.

At the session devoted to religious work in University Centers the following resolution bearing upon this subject, introduced by Dr. Hughes, was adopted:

In each University Center one or more of the Church representatives should be especially charged with the responsibility of giving counsel in the choice of a vocation to the end that students may learn to choose their life work with a clear view of rendering the largest unselfish service for the best good of the world. Special attention should be given to the enlistment for the Christian ministry and Christian teaching and to committing those who choose other vocations to volunteer service in the Church as laymen.

Educational workers face no more important continuous task than this, and none in which a greater service can be rendered to our youth

themselves and to the oncoming Kingdom of Heaven. From a human standpoint it appears that the cause of righteousness and justice and love is in a large measure in the hands of those who undertake to interpret to our youth the challenge of this new era and to secure their personal commitment to the post-war program of Christian democracy.

LEADERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION IN UNIVERSITY CENTERS.

At the session of the Council held under the joint auspices of the Council of Church Boards of Education and the Conference of Church Workers in Universities, full and frank expression was given to the feeling that the findings of the Cleveland Conference are now inadequate for the most efficient work in the light of past experience and post-war conditions. A series of resolutions was adopted, among which were the following:

The union of all Christian Agencies at work in each Center with full and visible recognition of the identification of their interests, is essential to the success of the enterprise and the spiritual welfare of the students.

Working together at a common task is the surest and safest method of bringing about the organic union of the churches. This organized co-operation of a group of denominations to provide Christian education and training for Christian service and to develop loyalty to the organized church, will not only promote the spirit of unity in the co-operating agencies, but will train large numbers of students to propagate the same spirit and plan in their home communities. Leaving these students adrift in their religious life without personal allegiance to any denomination operates to delay the proper unity of the churches.

As a further development in this field of the activities of the Council, it may be reported that a conference has already been held in the office of the Executive Secretary, in which representative members of the council talked over with Dr. John R. Mott the questions involved and it was unanimously decided that another meeting of the Committee on Reference of the Cleveland Conference should be held at the earliest practicable date. In conformity with this decision this committee has been called to meet at the office of Dr. John R. Mott on Friday morning, February 7th, at which time it is hoped that significant steps forward will be taken in behalf of Christian Education in the American universities.

THE COMMISSION ON STANDARDIZATION OF COURSES IN CHURCH SCHOOLS.

The Commission on Standardization has now been appointed and is ready for business. During the past year the appointment of the Commission was delayed because of the exigencies of the war and also because it was felt that as many agencies as possible should register their approval of this work so the Commission would have the greatest possible prestige. At the Atlantic City meeting in December of the Commission on Christian Education of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, a committee of three was appointed to assist the Council of Church Boards of Education in the appointment of this Commission and by implication all the agencies connected with the Commission on Christian Education thus endorsed the task of the Commission on Standardization. By unanimous vote of this joint committee on appointment the following persons were designated as members of the Commission:

Robert L. Kelly, Chairman, Council of Church Boards of Education.

Charles Foster Kent, Yale University.

Laura H. Wild, Mount Holyoke College.

Lavinia Tallman, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Ira M. Price, University of Chicago.

Herbert L. Willetts, University of Chicago.

H. G. Beuhler, The Hotchkiss School.

Vernon P. Squires, University of North Dakota.

John E. Foster, Iowa State Board of Education.

It is expected that the initial meeting of this Commission will occur shortly.

THE INTER-CHURCH MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

A communication was presented at the annual meeting by Dr. Clarke from the Committee of Twenty of the Inter-Church Missionary Movement, and the following resolution was adopted:

That the Council of Church Boards of Education heartily approves in principle the plans for the Inter-Church Missionary Movement as presented by the Committee of Twenty and requests that when these plans are in final form they be presented to the various Church Boards with the recommendation of the Council that they be given favorable consideration.

It may be added that the regular phases of work for which the Council has been organized during the past year were all indorsed at the annual meeting and plans were made to continue their development, but it is not the purpose of this issue of the Bulletin to stress these lines of activity.